

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 26, 2003
5:00 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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STATE PREPARES FOR *NEXT* SNOW STORM

SAME SONG, DIFFERENT VERSE: DRIVE WITH CARE, ROADS COULD BE ICY

With another winter snow event hovering over Delaware, the Delaware Emergency Management Agency reminds motorists to use caution if they have to drive, especially after dark Wednesday and Thursday.

Although accumulation is not predicted to be significant over Wednesday night, a second front is expected to hit the state late afternoon, Thursday, Feb. 27. That second punch is predicted to bring another layer of snow that could bring the total of new snow to nine to 12 inches in New Castle County. Slightly lesser totals of new snow are forecast for Kent, eight to 10 inches, and Sussex, seven to nine inches.

According to the National Weather Service, light snow is expected to continue throughout the state Wednesday night until the early morning hours of Thursday. Accumulation is predicted to be three to four inches before snowfall tapers off around 3 a.m. The Thursday snowfall is predicted to begin between 3 and 6 p.m. and last until approximately noon on Friday, Feb. 28.

At this time, the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) anticipates being able keep roads clear of most accumulation through Thursday morning, enabling an orderly morning commute. Road conditions will be monitored throughout the night and updated as necessary. Crews for plowing and sanding and salting will be staged and ready to return to roads throughout the day as the second weather system moves into Delaware later Thursday.

Even with slight accumulation and predicted good visibility tonight and Thursday morning, officials caution motorists to drive slowly and to allow ample time for reaching destinations tomorrow morning. Overnight temperatures in the mid-20s will increase the probability for untreated wet road surfaces to become icy. Drivers are asked to keep a safe distance between their vehicle and those in front of them in order to brake slowly and safely.

Numerous accidents were reported during rush hours Wednesday morning. In Sussex County alone, there were 39 accidents between 6 and 9 a.m.

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